

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A coating unit for applying a coating solution on a substrate, comprising:

a container enclosing the substrate;

a casing for accommodating said container therein;

a supply device for supplying a predetermined gas into said casing;

a first exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said container;

a second exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said casing;

a first adjusting device which is disposed in said first exhaust pipe, for adjusting a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said first exhaust pipe; and

a second adjusting device which is disposed in said second exhaust pipe, for adjusting a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said second exhaust pipe,

wherein a downstream side of said first exhaust pipe is connected to an upstream side of said second adjusting device in said second exhaust pipe.

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): A coating unit according to claim 1,

wherein the gas is supplied from a top portion of said casing in a downward direction by said supply device, and

wherein said second exhaust pipe is disposed to extend from a bottom portion of said casing.

Claim 5 (original): A coating unit according to claim 4, further comprising:

a current plate for straightening a descending air current caused to occur inside said casing by said supply device and said second exhaust pipe.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): A coating unit according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a carrier for carrying a coating solution supply nozzle for supplying the coating solution to the substrate which is placed inside said container;  
an accommodating portion for accommodating said carrier which is disposed inside said casing; and  
a third exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said accommodating portion.

Claims 8-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A coating unit for applying a coating solution on a substrate, comprising:

a container enclosing the substrate;  
a casing for accommodating said container therein;  
a supply device for supplying a predetermined gas into said casing;  
a first exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said container;  
a second exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said casing;  
a first adjusting device which is disposed in said first exhaust pipe, for adjusting a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said first exhaust pipe;  
a second adjusting device which is disposed in said second exhaust pipe, for adjusting a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said second exhaust pipe;  
a carrier for carrying a coating solution supply nozzle for supplying the coating solution to the substrate which is placed inside said container;  
an accommodating portion for accommodating said carrier which is disposed inside said casing; and  
a third exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said accommodating portion.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A coating unit according to claim 14,  
wherein the gas is supplied from a top portion of said casing in a downward direction  
by said supply device, and

wherein said second exhaust pipe is disposed to extend from a bottom portion of said  
casing.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A coating unit according to claim 14, further  
comprising:

a current plate for straightening a descending air current caused to occur inside said  
casing by said supply device and said second exhaust pipe.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A coating unit for applying a coating solution on a  
substrate, comprising:

a container enclosing the substrate;

a casing for accommodating said container therein;

a supply device for supplying a predetermined gas into said casing;

a first exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said container;

a second exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said casing;

a first adjusting device which is disposed in said first exhaust pipe, for adjusting a  
flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said first exhaust pipe;

a second adjusting device which is disposed in said second exhaust pipe, for adjusting  
a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said second exhaust pipe,

a carrier for carrying a coating solution supply nozzle for supplying the coating  
solution to the substrate which is placed inside said container;

an accommodating portion for accommodating said carrier which is disposed inside  
said casing; and

a third exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said accommodating portion,  
wherein a downstream side of said first exhaust pipe is connected to an upstream side  
of said second adjusting device in said second exhaust pipe.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A coating unit for applying a coating solution on a substrate, comprising:

a container enclosing the substrate;  
a casing for accommodating said container therein;  
a supply device for supplying a predetermined gas into said casing;  
a first exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said container;  
a second exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said casing;  
a first adjusting device which is disposed in said first exhaust pipe, for adjusting a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said first exhaust pipe;  
a second adjusting device which is disposed in said second exhaust pipe, for adjusting a flow rate of an atmosphere passing through said second exhaust pipe;  
a current plate for straightening a descending air current caused to occur inside said casing by said supply device and said second exhaust pipe;  
a carrier for carrying a coating solution supply nozzle for supplying the coating solution to the substrate which is placed inside said container;  
an accommodating portion for accommodating said carrier which is disposed inside said casing; and  
a third exhaust pipe for exhausting an atmosphere inside said accommodating portion,  
~~wherein a downstream side of said first exhaust pipe is connected to an upstream side of said second adjusting device in said second exhaust pipe~~

Application No. 09/972,866  
Reply to Office Action of August 1, 2003  
Supplemental Amendment

wherein the gas is supplied from a top portion of said casing in a downward direction by said supply device, and

wherein said second exhaust pipe is disposed to extend from a bottom portion of said casing.